

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121955
ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE
H:DGELBER
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O R 262005Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

S E C R E T STATE 121955

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: ENCOURAGING FREE ELECTIONS IN NICARAGUA AND OTHER
HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

REF: MANAGUA 2327

1. THE DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT FREE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN
1978 IN NICARAGUA IN PREPARATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
IN 1981 WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO MAINTAINING AND
IMPROVING A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GON. FREE
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PAGE 02 STATE 121955

ELECTIONS IN 1978 ARE TIED TO DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE THAT GON
LIFT THE PRESENT STATE OF SIEGE AND CENSORSHIP AS POSITIVE
SIGNS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY.

2. THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS THAT THE ABOVE POINTS SHOULD
BE AMONG THOSE CONVEYED TO SOMOZA DURING AMBASSADOR'S
FAREWELL VISIT. HOWEVER, AT LEAST AS MUCH EMPHASIS SHOULD

BE PLACED ON BENEFIT TO OUR RELATIONS AND TO IMPACT ON CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OF ANY EVIDENCE THAT GUARDIA NACIONAL HAS SUBSTANTIALLY MODERATED ITS CONDUCT AND IS NOW GIVING MUCH GREATER RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. EVEN THOUGH GON IS PRESENTLY UPSET AT LAST WEEK'S VOTE

BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN WHICH IT DELETED ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA FOR F.Y. 78, FROM THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION BILL, AMBASSADOR SHOULD NEVERTHELESS PURSUE OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN IN THAT COUNTRY WITH SOMOZA. GON STILL HAS SOME RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL IN CONGRESS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA WAS NOT CUT FROM APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY LONG SUBCOMMITTEE THIS WEEK AS HAD BEEN THREATENED AND THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE REMAINS IN THE AUTHORIZATION BILL. GON'S REFUSAL TO SHOW SOME POSITIVE SIGNS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO JEOPARDIZE OUR CAPABILITY TO ESTABLISH A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CONGRESS ON NICARAGUA AND WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE CONGRESS THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S FLEXIBLE POSITION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE (BRAY'S STATEMENT) IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO THE SITUATION.

4. AMBASSADOR IS, THEREFORE, REQUESTED TO AGAIN PRESENT THOSE POINTS TO SOMOZA DURING AMBASSADOR'S FINAL INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT. VANCE

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PAGE 03 STATE 121955

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